CLAIMS:

5   What is claimed is:

1.   A   method   of   dynamically   updating   dynamic   host
     configuration protocol (DHCP) options stored on a
10   computer system comprising the steps of:

     setting up the options into a configuration file; and

     periodically updating the options automatically.
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2.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the options are passed to
     a client system requesting an IP address.

3.   The method of Claim 2 wherein one of the options is a
20   router that the requesting client system is to use when
     communicating on a network.

4.   The method of Claim 3 wherein another one of the
     options is a domain name server that the requesting
25   client system is to use to convert domain names of
     computer systems into IP addresses.

5.   A method of load-balancing network data traffic on
     network resources comprising the steps of:
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     setting up at least one option to use at least one of
     the network resources into a configuration file, the

configuration file being stored on a computer system; and

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periodically updating the at least one option automatically to use another one of the resources.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the configuration file is stored on a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

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7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the at least one option is a router.

8. The method of Claim 6 wherein the at least one option

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is a domain name server used to convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

9. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for dynamically updating dynamic host

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configuration protocol (DHCP) options stored on a computer system comprising:

code means for setting up the options into a configuration file; and

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code means for periodically updating the options automatically.

10. The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein the

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options are passed to a client system requesting an IP address.

11. The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein one of the options is a router that the requesting client system is to use when communicating on a network.

5 12. The computer program product of Claim 11 wherein another one of the options is a domain name server that the requesting client system is to use to convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

10 13. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for load-balancing network data traffic on network resources comprising:

code means for setting up at least one option to use at
15 least one of the network resources, the at least one option being in a configuration file stored stored on a computer system; and

code means for periodically updating the at least one
20 option automatically to use another one of the resources.

14. The computer program product of Claim 13 wherein the configuration file is stored on a dynamic host
25 configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

15. The computer program product of Claim 14 wherein the at least one option is a router.

30 16. The computer program product of Claim 14 wherein the at least one option is a domain name server used to

convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

17. An apparatus for dynamically updating dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) options stored on a computer system comprising:

means for setting up the options into a configuration file; and

means for periodically updating the options automatically.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the options are passed to a client system requesting an IP address.

19. The apparatus of Claim 18 wherein one of the options is a router that the requesting client system is to use when communicating on a network.

20. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein another one of the options is a domain name server that the requesting client system is to use to convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

21. An apparatus for load-balancing network data traffic on network resources comprising:

means for setting up at least one option to use at least one of the network resources into a configuration file, the configuration file being stored on a computer system; and

means for periodically updating the at least one option automatically to use another one of the resources.

5   22.   The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein the configuration file is stored on a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

       23.   The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein the at least one option is a router.

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       24.   The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein the at least one option is a domain name server used to convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

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       25.   A computer system for dynamically updating dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) options comprising:

          at least one storage device to store code data; and

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          at least one processor for processing said code data to set up the options into a configuration file, and to periodically update the options automatically.

25   26.   The computer system of Claim 25 wherein the options are passed to a client system requesting an IP address.

       27.   The computer system of Claim 26 wherein one of the options is a router that the requesting client system

30   is to use when communicating on a network.

28. The computer system of Claim 27 wherein another one of the options is a domain name server that the requesting client system is to use to convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

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29. A computer system for load-balancing network data traffic on network resources comprising:

at least one storage device to store code data; and

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at least one processor to process said code data to set up at least one option to use at least one of the network resources into a configuration file, the configuration file being stored on a computer system, and to periodically update the at least one option automatically to use another one of the resources, the at least one option being passed to a computer system using the network.

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20 30. The computer system of Claim 29 wherein the configuration file is stored on a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

31. The computer system of Claim 30 wherein the at least one option is a router.

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32. The computer system of Claim 30 wherein the at least one option is a domain name server used to convert domain names of computer systems into IP addresses.

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